

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An information processing device for connecting to one or more external devices, the information processing device comprising:

a storage area configured to store information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, which is referenced when the one or more external devices to be connected to the information processing device are initialized, wherein the storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices; and

a processor configured to obtain hardware type information and base type information from a connected external device and to determine, for initializing the connected external device, whether or not the hardware type information obtained from the connected external device is stored in the first storage area, and if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the connected external device obtained from the connected external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area;

wherein the processor is configured, if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device as a specific one of the predetermined set of external devices if the base type information obtained from the connected external device is same as or interchangeable with the attribute information of the specific one of the predetermined set of external devices stored in the second storage area.

2. (currently amended) The information processing device of claim 1 wherein the base type information comprises at least one of a capacity and an emulation type of the connected external device.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The information processing device of claim 1 wherein the information processing device is a storage control device, and the one or more external devices are disk devices to be connected to the storage control device.

5. (previously presented) An information processing device for connecting to one or more external devices, the information processing device comprising:

a storage area configured to store information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, which is referenced when the one or more external devices to be connected to the information processing device are initialized, wherein the storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices; and

a processor configured to compare base type information relating to characteristics of a connected external device obtained from the connected external device with the attribute information accumulated in the second storage area, and if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the connected external device as the one matching external device.

6. (previously presented) The information processing device of claim 5 wherein the base type information comprises at least one of a capacity and an emulation type of the connected external device.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) [[The]] An information processing device [[of claim 7]] for connecting to one or more external devices, the information processing device comprising:

a storage area configured to store information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, which is referenced when the one or more external devices to be connected to the information processing device are initialized, wherein the storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices; and

a processor configured, if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from a connected external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information;

wherein the processor is configured to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, if the obtained hardware type information and the stored hardware type information which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information have a matching character string sequence of a preset minimum threshold.

9. (previously presented) The information processing device of claim 8 wherein the processor is configured, if the obtained hardware type information and the stored hardware type information which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information do not have a matching character string sequence of the preset minimum threshold, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the connected external device obtained from said connected external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area.

10. (original) The information processing device of claim 9 wherein the processor is configured, if the obtained hardware type information and the stored hardware type information which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information do not have a matching character string sequence of the preset minimum threshold, to initialize the connected external device as a specific one of the predetermined set of external devices if the base type information obtained from the connected external device is same as or interchangeable with the attribute information of the specific one of the predetermined set of external devices stored in the second storage area.

11. (currently amended) A method for controlling initialization of an external device which is to be connected to an information processing device, the method comprising:

obtaining hardware type information and base type information of a connected external device;

determining whether or not the obtained hardware type information of the connected external device is present in a storage area of the information processing device for storing information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, wherein the storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices; and

if the obtained hardware type information is not present in the storage area, initializing the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the connected external device obtained from the connected external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area;

wherein if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the storage area, the connected external device is initialized as a specific one of the predetermined set of external devices if the base type information obtained from the connected external device is same as or interchangeable with the attribute information of the specific one of the predetermined set of external devices stored in the second storage area.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the base type information comprises at least one of a capacity and an emulation type of the connected external device.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) A method for controlling initialization of an external device which is to be connected to an information processing device, the method comprising:

obtaining hardware type information and base type information of a connected external device;

determining whether or not the obtained hardware type information of the connected external device is present in a storage area of the information processing device for storing information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, wherein the storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices; and

if the obtained hardware type information is not present in the storage area, comparing the base type information relating to characteristics of the connected external device obtained from the connected external device with the attribute information accumulated in the second storage area, and if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, initializing the connected external device by identifying the connected external device as the one matching external device.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the base type information comprises at least one of a capacity and an emulation type of the connected external device.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) [[The]] A method [[of claim 16]] for controlling initialization of an external device which is to be connected to an information processing device, the method comprising:

obtaining hardware type information and base type information of [[the]] a connected external device;

determining whether or not the obtained hardware type information of the connected external device is present in a storage area of the information processing device for storing information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, wherein the storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices; and

if the obtained hardware type information is not present in the storage area, comparing the hardware type information obtained from the connected external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and initializing the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information;

wherein the connected external device is initialized by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, if the obtained hardware type information and the stored hardware type information which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information have a matching character string sequence of a preset minimum threshold.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein, if the obtained hardware type information and the stored hardware type information which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information do not have a matching character string sequence of the preset minimum threshold, the connected external device is initialized by referring to the base type information relating to the connected external device obtained

from said connected external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein, if the obtained hardware type information and the stored hardware type information which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information do not have a matching character string sequence of the preset minimum threshold, the connected external device is initialized as a specific one of the predetermined set of external devices if the base type information obtained from the connected external device is same as or interchangeable with the attribute information of the specific one of the predetermined set of external devices stored in the second storage area.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim [[16]] 17 wherein the base type information comprises at least one of a capacity and an emulation type of the connected external device.